

November 2003

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Robert Wideman

Overview

November 2003 saw positive news in the area of accident reduction for the Northern Command area. Total accidents were reduced by an impressive 24.8% from November 2002. In raw numbers, that is 111 fewer accidents. Accidents were also reduced by 9.7% from the levels reported in October 2003. The number of injuries sustained from crashes were also reduced from levels reported last year. The number of fatal crashes investigated and the number of resulting deaths also decreased from levels reported last year and from last month.

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Supplemental Information

Analysis of the crashes reported reveals that 86% of the crashes investigated in the Reno urban area occurred in the core areas surrounding the I80/I580 interchange. Of those crashes, 42% occurred in designated construction zones. Accordingly, enforcement efforts have been, and will continue to be, targeted toward the core area with emphasis placed on the enforcement of accident causing violations.

Total enforcement activity has increased by 87.1% as compared to November 2002 and by a modest 3.2% compared to last month. While many variables contribute to the rate of traffic accidents, comparisons between accident and enforcement changes over the past year are inescapable. When compared to November 2002, there is a seemingly clear correlation between an 87.1% enforcement increase and a 24.8% accident decrease. The consistent decrease in traffic fatalities may be linked to an increase of 183.9% in occupant restraint enforcement. Highway fatalities, particularly in rural environments, frequently involve occupants who are thrown from the vehicle. Occupant restraint systems substantially reduce the numbers of persons ejected from vehicles and undeniably save lives.

Staffing levels continue to be at issue in the Northern Command, as they are throughout the Highway Patrol. While the command area does not suffer from vacancies, the number of employees available has been reduced through re-allocation to other areas that suffer from employee turnover. The number of Trooper work hours available to conduct traffic operations in the Northern Command has declined by an astounding 51.4% compared to the number of hours available at the same time last year. Despite that loss, the Troopers of the Northern Command have responded with dedication and purpose. During November 2003, each Trooper in the Northern Command produced enforcement activity per work hour available at a rate 4 times that produced one year ago. Their efforts continue to result in a substantial reduction in death, injury and property damage to the highway users in the Northern Command area.

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	November 2003		November 2002	% Change		October 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	336		447	-24.8%		372	-9.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	240		295	-18.6%		272	-11.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	93		147	-36.7%		92	1.1%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3		5	-40.0%		8	-62.5%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	14		12	16.7%		16	-12.5%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		7	-42.9%		8	-50.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		2	-50.0%		4	-75.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	3		3	0.0%		1	200.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	3		3	0.0%		8	-62.5%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		0	300.0%		5	-40.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		3	-300.0%		3	-300.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.2%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 25.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Analysis:

S.I.R.T. (Severe Incident Response Team)

In the Northern Command, we are down in the number of total fatalities and in the number of deaths from last year. Last year, at this time, we had 52 fatality crashes with 72 deaths. Currently, we have had 43 fatality crashes with 45 deaths.

The Northern Command had three fatality crashes during this period and the SIRT team responded to all of the fatal crashes. Two fatal crashes occurred in the Reno district and one fatal crash in the Fallon district.

Reno Urban Traffic

In the Reno Urban area we had a slight decrease of “Total Crashes”. Property crashes had a decrease of 21 crashes (12.3%). Last month there was a slight increase in the number of property crashes due to the sudden change in weather. On October 22 and 23, our first snow storm occurred that caused winter driving conditions resulting in 15 additional accidents in the Reno Urban. In the month of November, we experienced cold temperature but the month was dry. A comparison of November’s weather to the same period last year, the weather conditions were similar and in both months but did not influence in the accident picture. Throughout the winter we will experience conditions that will cause additional traffic collisions but the overall driving behavior of the public has adjusted to winter driving conditions. We did experience a drastic increase of injury crashes for the month of November as compared to last month.

Of the injury crashes this month, 72% of them were on swing shift (43 out of 60 total). 64 % of the swing shift injury crashes were during commute times. Of the property and injury crashes that occurred this month, 86.5% of them occurred in the central area of Reno and 42% of them were within the construction zones. 52% of these accidents are rear end collision. The Reno Urban area had two fatal crashes. This is a decrease of 1 fatal crash.

Fernley/Fallon District

The Fernley / Fallon District reports an overall 15.6% decrease in crashes when compared to last month and a decrease of 14.3% compared to last year. The Fernley / Fallon district decreased 36% in injury related crashes and a 50% decrease in fatal crashes compared to last year. The area did have a 27% increase in injury crashes compared to last month however that increase represents only three more crashes. Property damage crashes decreased 22% and fatal crashes decreased 67% compared to last month.

Carson/Minden District

Total accidents were down 20.5% (70 from 88). Property accidents decreased 1.9% (51 from 52-which equates to only 1 accident). Injury accidents decreased 44.1% (19 from 34). DUI crashes were down 75% (1 from 4). There were no fatal accidents in this reporting period.

Accident decreases were attributed to slightly reduced winter traffic volumes, colder weather in late November, and there were no special events, even though we observed Veteran’s day, Thanksgiving and Family Day holidays. Special enforcement assignments during November increased patrol effectiveness in the Carson and Washoe Valley. Even when some of these enforcement days were missed, they are made up on other days.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	November 2003		November 2002	% Change		October 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	14		12	16.7%		16	-12.5%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	110		113	-2.7%		122	-9.8%
Other Arrests	509		352	44.6%		507	0.4%
Total Persons Arrested (DUI included)	226		153	47.7%		204	10.8%
Speed violations	1895		780	142.9%		1853	2.3%
Hazardous moving violations	698		572	22.0%		743	-6.1%
Occupant restraint violations *	423		149	183.9%		335	26.3%
Total violations ** [above violations included]	5015		2680	87.1%		4858	3.2%
Hazardous moving violations-citations/arrests	19		12	58.3%		21	-9.5%
Other traffic violations-citations/arrests	15		61	-75.4%		51	-70.6%
Total safety inspections [Lvls 1,2,3&6]	398		342	16.4%		570	-30.2%
Terminal inspections TIP (Lvl 5)							
Total safety violations -- citation	164		287	-42.9%		533	-69.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	725		554	30.9%		933	-22.3%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	41		41	0.0%		67	-38.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	19		19	0.0%		29	-34.5%
Total school buses inspected	98		113	-13.3%		74	32.4%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	29		30	-3.3%		22	31.8%
Total trucks weighed	81		187	-56.7%		254	-68.1%
Total overweight citations	29		49	-40.8%		42	-31.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	398		342	16.4%		407	-2.2%
Total dyed fuel citations	5		1	400.0%		5	0.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

**Total violations include Speed, Hazardous, Occupant restraint, Registration, Drivers License, Insurance and Other Categories.

Analysis:***Reno Urban Traffic***

At the beginning of October, all the urban sergeants were tasked to establish shift goals that they were going to have their shifts obtain. Some of those goals were not met. We are going to continue to strive to increase the productivity of the Reno Urban area as a whole. We anticipate this goal achievement style of management will produce positive results.

Although the results of our efforts with enforcement are down 4.2%, we have a 7.1% decrease in total work hours available. Calculating the total available work hours using the rate of last month, we would have had an increase of approximately 3%.

We have stressed to the Troopers to make contact with the public while on patrol. These traffic stops will result in verbal warning, mechanical repair orders or citations. Although overall activity dropped by 100 citations issued, compared to last month we have increased our traffic stops by 4% and our verbal warnings increased 12%.

Fernley/Fallon District

Field enforcement activity decreased 9.7% compared to last month but increased 63% compared to last year. This month's decrease can be attributed to the fact that the area had a reduction of 10.8% of total hours worked compared to last month. The 63% increase in enforcement over last year was also accomplished with a reduction in total hours worked of 13.6%. The increased enforcement over last year is a trend that can be attributed to the dedication and hard work of the area Sergeants and Troopers.

Carson/Minden District

Field Enforcement categories "total persons arrested, hazardous, seat-belts, and total" violations were up. Significantly, seat belts were up 72.7% from last month, and 216.7% from last year.

These increases in activity were accomplished with 80 less total hours worked. Work hours lost increased 3%, however, we posted a 38.1% increase in the total number of citations, and a 59% increase from last year, a credit to the personnel in the Carson / Minden Area.

DUI arrests from crashes were down 75% (1 from 4), however, DUI arrests prior to crashes were unchanged (21 from 21). Overall, very good enforcement, considering 945.75 work hours lost.

Commercial Section

During the month of November, the Commercial Section issued 19 hazardous moving violation and 15 non-moving violations. This was a drastic decrease over last month but it was expected due to training and the 72-hour check site that had consumed much of the commercial trooper's time.

Although most of the activity appears to be down, as stated previously, this was expected and was planned for. With the reduction in the available total work hours being down 46%, the troopers total activity in inspections were only down 30.2%. They were able to do more with less time.

The total number of school busses inspected increased by 32.4%, respectfully the number of buses placed out of service also increased slightly by 31.8%. With all of the increases, the CVSI's of Northern Command also were able to assist at the 72-hour check site in Las Vegas. There was also one CVSI

working on a project involving the re-inspection of several school busses throughout the region as well as assisting the other regions on the same project.

The total number of trucks weighed, while operating on Nevada roadways decreased by 68.1%.

However, even with the dramatic decrease in total trucks weighed, troopers were able to find violations and this category only decreased by 31%

Commercial Troopers located five (5) vehicles operating on Nevada's roadways while using dyed fuel, which was the same number located last month.

M.C.I. (Major Crime Interdiction)

Compared to last year traffic stops were down and stops per hour were up. Verbal warnings were down this rating period, compared to the previous rating period. Searches this rating period were down. There were five individuals arrested on various charges, during this rating period. The MCI unit assisted with 60-motorists.

To date, we have opened 25 cases and 20 cases are still active. We had eight court cases plead out, prior to trial. Three of these cases have been completely adjudicated through the courts. We continue to work on getting the rest of these cases adjudicated.

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

STAFFING	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
	November 2003	November 2002	November 2003	November 2002	November 2003	November 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	64	98	64	98	100.0%	100.0%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	19	19	13	18	68.4%	94.7%
Commercial CVSI	3	3	3	3	100.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Annual leave	1161.6		312	273.3%	923.8	25.7%
Compensatory leave	515.5		398.5	29.4%	689.9	-25.3%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1107.25		646.7	71.2%	878.15	26.1%
Military leave	173		0	17300.0%	0	17300.0%
Holiday off	687		126	445.2%	0	68700.0%
Training	1304		1124	16.0%	1827	-28.6%
Administrative leave	36.5		96	-62.0%	0	3650.0%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total work hours lost	4984.85		2703.2	84.4%	4318.85	15.4%
OVERTIME	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1202		955	25.95	1561	-23.0%
Compensatory overtime claimed	188		184	2.25	284	-33.8%
Total overtime hours	1390		1139	22.0%	1845	-24.7%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	11072		16954	-34.7%	11072	0.0%
Work hours lost	4984.85		2703.2	84.4%	4318.85	15.4%
Overtime	1390		1139	22.0%	1845	-24.7%
Total hours worked	7477.15		15389.8	-51.4%	8598.15	-13.0%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Analysis: Northern Command:

The Northern Command staffing level remained the same as compared to last month. Current positions staffed this month are 60 troopers and sergeants, compared to 98 authorized last year.

Numerical staffing numbers shown reflect only those troopers and sergeants whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity and crash investigation. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to full time administrative duties are not included as they have no direct impact on the enforcement or crash reduction efforts.

We continue to operate at a reduced staffing level. This is caused by Military duty, extended sick leave and special assignment in Headquarters (two Troopers assigned to conduct pre-hire background investigations).

Traffic Section

Total current traffic staff working the road (Troopers and Sergeants) 60

- 29 - Reno Urban
- 16 - Carson/Minden
- 15 - Fernley/Fallon District

Commercial Section

The commercial enforcement section continues to operate at 68.4%. Other members are assigned as follows:

- 1-Sergeant is assigned to an Acting Lieutenant position
- 1 Trooper vacancy
- 1 Trooper assigned to the MCI Program
- 1 Trooper on admin/sick leave
- 1 Trooper on re-orientation program

RATIOS – CRASH AND ENFORCEMENT

CRASH RATIOS	November 2003	October 2003
Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total	5.6:1	6.4:1
Property	4.0:1	4.6:1
Injury	1.6:1	1.6:1
Fatal	0.1:1	0.1:1
DUI	0.2:1	0.3:1
Commercial vehicle	0.1:1	0.1:1
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.3:1	1.0:1
without seatbelts	0.3:1	0.6:1
with seatbelts	1.0:1	0.3:1

FIELD ENFORCEMENT		
Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes	0.2:1	0.3:1
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.8:1	2.1:1
Other Arrests	8.5:1	8.7:1
Speed violations	31.6:1	31.7:1
Hazardous moving violations	11.6:1	12.7:1
Occupant restraint violations	7.1:1	5.7:1
Total violations	83.6:1	83.0:1

RATIOS – CRASH AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS	November 2003	October 2003
Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position		
Hazardous moving violations – citations	1.2:1	1.2:1
Other traffic violations – citations	0.9:1	2.8:1
Total safety inspections [all levels]	24.9:1	27.1:1
Terminal inspections TIP	0.0:1	0.0:1
Total safety violations -- citation *	12.6:1	29.6:1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation	0.4:1	0.9:1
Total safety violations -- repair order	45.3:1	44.4:1
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order	1.8:1	1.6:1
Total vehicles placed “Out of Service”	2.6:1	3.2:1
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection	0.1:1	0.1:1
Total drivers placed “Out of Service”	1.2:1	1.4:1
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection	0.0:1	0.1:1
Total school buses inspected	6.1:1	3.5:1
Total school buses placed “Out of Service”	1.8:1	1.0:1
Total trucks weighed *	6.2:1	14.1:1
Total overweight citations*	2.2:1	2.3:1
Total dyed fuel inspections*	30.6:1	22.6:1
Total dyed fuel citations*	0.4:1	0.3:1

*Commercial Sworn Only

Administration

The Court/Warrants section completed ten in-state transports/bookings, seven add booking arrests and processed one hundred and ninety five subpoenas. The activity overall decreased in November as compared to October. One of the two troopers assigned to the section is on prolonged sick leave. The administrative staff assigned to Court Warrants continued to increase the number of warrants entered into the system. There was a 33% increase in the number of warrants entered during the month of November compared to October. The staff received six hundred and eighty six new warrants during the month of November, as well as confirming twenty warrants for arrest.

Evidence

This section received one hundred and twenty five evidence items from fifty-four cases in November, a 119% increase from October. The majority of these items were from drug seizure cases from the Parole and Probation Division, and an identity theft case from the Highway Patrol Division. The number of adjudicated items disposed of increased in November, from sixty-six in October to eighty-three.

Front office

The office staff served three hundred and twenty-two customers at the front counter, providing one hundred and ninety-seven reports and taking twenty-three office accident reports. The staff processed one hundred and twenty-six arrest reports, three hundred and ten accident reports and one hundred and six lab requests. The timekeeper entered two hundred and sixty-seven time sheets during the month of November. During pay period twelve one hundred and thirty five time sheets were entered with only eleven entry codes. The timekeeper is getting more proficient with the experience.

Work Hours

Sworn

Total work hours lost in the sworn section of administrative services increased significantly. Sick leave, holiday and training hour increases were the cause. A trooper assigned to the Court warrants section has been on prolonged sick leave. Overtime usage in the section increased from nine hours in October to twenty hours in November. The overtime was used by the training coordinator to either attend training, or instruct at the academy.

Administrative Staff

Currently we have two vacancies and one position on a temporary duty assignment to the Background section. Total hours worked during the month of November increased by 8%. Overtime decreased by approximately thirteen hours or 27 %. The 13 hours of overtime was utilized for coverage and backlog reduction in the warrant entries. November showed a decrease in the hours of annual leave and sick leave, but an increase in hours lost to holidays.

Training

The training coordinator participated in a week long Defensive Tactics Seminar in Las Vegas from November 17, 2003, through the 21st. The position instructed at the P.O.S.T. academy for three days during the month as well as assisting with a Baton class in Carson City.

Projects / Action Plans and Upcoming Events

Reno Urban

Projects / Action Plans

Aggressive "Bowl Patrol" will continue during commuter times. As always, traffic stops in the bowl area during these times will be discouraged and the troopers will strive for visibility. As of December 1, 2003, we will have six motorcycle units on special squads in the bowl area. Three will be on Day shift and three will work on an early swing shift. Their priority will be enforcement, and responding to crashes in the bowl area and the construction zones during high commute times. This will hopefully relieve the car units to work outside the parameter of the core area to step up the enforcement in these areas.

Upcoming Events

The Reno Urban Command will be supplementing the efforts at the New Years Eve celebration at Lake Tahoe.

We will also be rearranging our schedule for maximum coverage in the Reno Area during the peak time of New Years Eve. Our primary goal will be ensuring a safe passage for motorist in their travels to and from New Years Eve events.

Fernley / Fallon District

Projects / Action Plans

Field enforcement activity and public service as it compares to last year remains our primary focus for the next several months. Historically winter statistics have dropped off. We will continue to impress upon our personnel that the level of service expected of us by the public; is too insure the motoring public that we are making every effort to provide them with quality service through continued enforcement efforts and improved actions plans.

Upcoming Events

One squad from the Fernley/Fallon area (1 sergeant and 4 troopers) has been identified to assist on New Years Eve at Lake Tahoe on December 31, 2003. The remaining troops will be working modified shifts in support of area enforcement late into the evening.

Commercial Enforcement

Projects / Action Plans

Troopers will continue to receive commercial enforcement training as needed. This training is unpredictable due to the availability of locations offering the various types needed. We will continue to monitor this and keep updated with new locations. This is a list of some of the training needs

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • North American | Two (2) Troopers |
| • Roadside Haz/Mat | Five (5) Troopers |
| • Bulk Packaging / Tanker | Five (5) Troopers |
| • Motor Coach | Six (6) Troopers |
| • New Record of Duty – Hours of Service | Twelve Troopers |

With the New Year approaching the commercial section will schedule more bus inspection check sites in order to insure this type of transportation is safe while using Nevada roadways.

Commercial Troopers will begin to work earlier in the morning as well as later in the evening. This should allow for more coverage of the region.

Upcoming Events

Commercial Commanders Meeting is scheduled for February.

The new Federal Fiscal Year had started in October and the commercial section began to schedule as many check sites as possible in order to obtain as much of the set goals as possible prior to the set of winter and will continue to do so.

**Nevada Highway
Patrol****Northern Command**

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Public Information Activities**Media Releases (Fatal Accidents, Serious Accidents/ Serious DUI Accidents)**

- 4 FataIs
 - 3 Serious Accidents w/DUI Prosecution
-
- 7 Total

Phone Interviews:

- 3 Phone Interviews with Reno Gazette Journal
(RE: Fatal accidents and Motor Program)

Print Stories:

- 4 (Reno Gazette Journal) on Fatal accident investigations and Motor Team.

News Stories:

- 11/28/03 Channel 4
- Story at my request on our Spaghetti Bowl enforcement efforts, especially during the Holiday Season. Broadcast on Channel 4 on 11/28/03 (1730 hours)